

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ronald A. Kramer Examiner: J. Snay
Serial No: 08/665,491 Group Art Unit: 1743
Filed: June 18, 1996 Date: February 3, 1999
For: CONDITIONER, APPLICATOR, AND PROCESS THEREFOR

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231
Attention: Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

REPLY BRIEF OF APPELLANT

Sir:

In accordance with the Examiner's Answer of December 09, 1998, appellants submit a Reply Brief in triplicate.

In his Response the examiner states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the treating method of Liddle to windshield wipers in order to obtain the water and dirt repellency as taught by Liddle, and to further obtain the rubber protection as taught by Palcher. The Examiner's fundamental error is that the object of the present application is not to repel water, dirt or anything else, nor is it to protect against anything. Rather, the present application discloses a process for reducing wiper streaking. It accomplishes this in exactly the opposite manner than a reading of Liddle and/or Palcher would lead one skilled in the art to conclude. Whereas Liddle and Palcher seek to repel water off the treated surfaces (Liddle column 1, lines 7-10, Palcher column 1, lines 41-43), the present invention's sulfonic acid acts as a surfactant that hampers water from being repelled off the surface of a wiper blade in order to increase the coefficient of friction between the wiper, water, and windshield. Whereas Liddle and Palcher rely on their compositions to cause water and contaminants to bead and roll off the treated surface, sulfonic acid will by itself have just the opposite effect. A wiper treated with sulfonic acid by itself will cause water to adhere to, rather than be repelled from, the wiper's surface due to the acid's surfactancy. It should be noted that it was not the objective of Liddle or Palcher to reduce streaking; being skilled in the art they knew that their compositions were diametrically unsuitable for this purpose, since the key to

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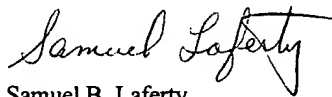
reducing streaking for wiper blades is not to repel water, but rather to "grab" the water (by adhering it to the wiper) and push it forward. As explained in Applicant's Supplemental Amendment "D", the wiper should push water forward as it moves over the surface of the windshield. A water repellant, such the polysiloxane used in Liddle and Palcher, would allow the wiper to ride over the water instead of adhering to the water and pushing it forward across the surface of the windshield.

The Examiner further argues that neither the instant claims nor the originally filed specification provide any disclosure of a desired or accomplished effect with respect to the coefficient of friction. However, the Examiner overlooks the materials contained in Applicant's Supplemental Amendment "D" that was entered as part of the case by the Examiner by his Advisory Action dated May 5, 1998. In that Amendment Applicant demonstrates that (a) a high coefficient of friction is desirable to reduce wiper streaking, and (b) sulfonic acid applied by itself to wiper blades increases the coefficient of friction; whereas, (c) the compositions of Liddle and Palcher would decrease the coefficient of friction. Since sulfonic acid was used by Liddle to increase the effectiveness of his low coefficient of friction composition, it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art to apply this acid by itself to increase the coefficient of friction of a surface.

As shown in Applicant's Supplemental Amendment "D", one skilled in the wiper blade art would know that a relatively high coefficient of friction is desirable to reduce wiper streaking. Therefore it would not have been obvious to this skilled person upon reading Liddle or Palcher to apply sulfonic acid by itself to wiper blades to reduce streaking.

Respectfully submitted,

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